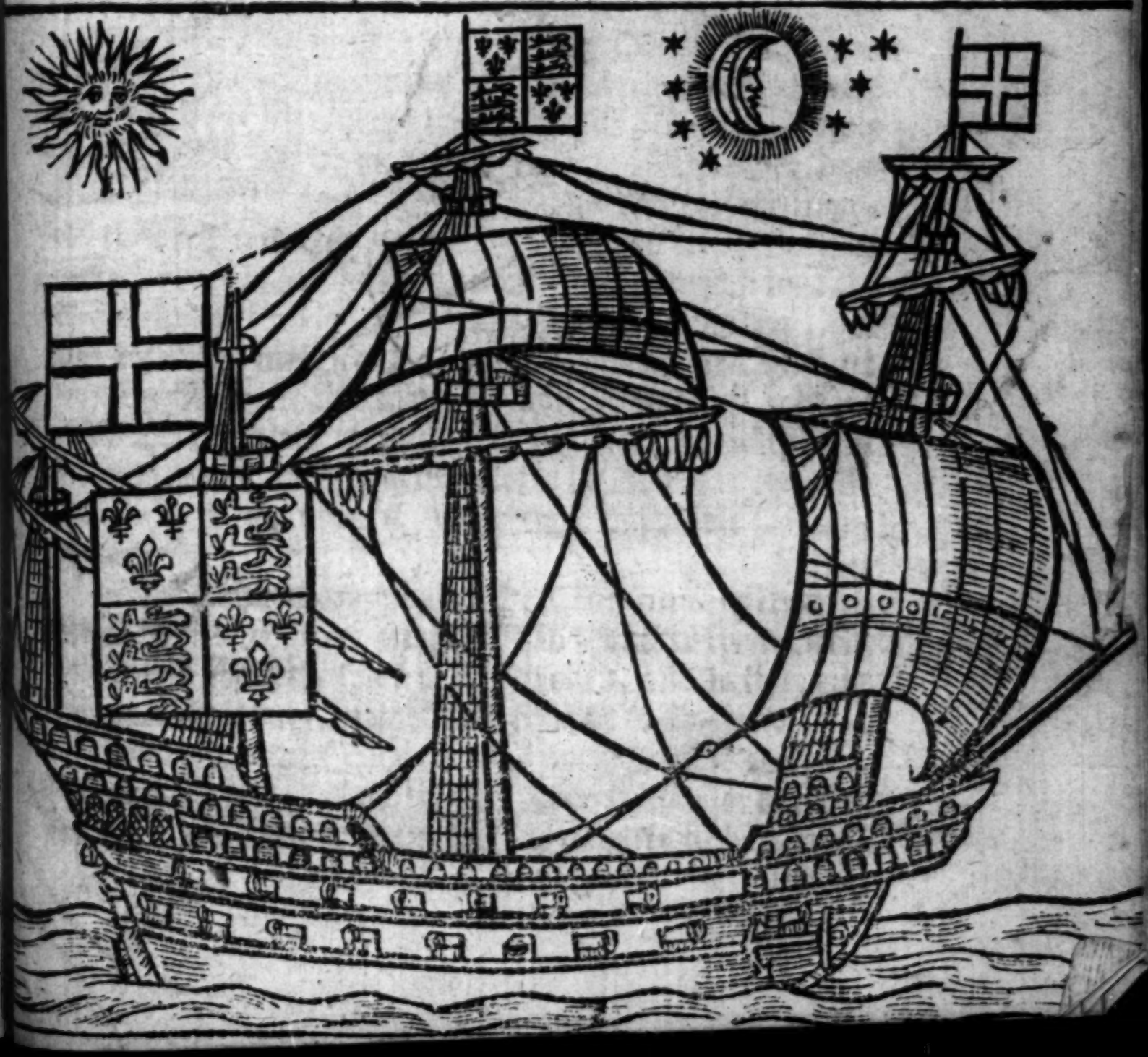
THE
Valiant and moſt lauda-
ble fight performed in the Straights, by *the Centurion of London, againſt* *fiue Spaniſh Gallies.*

by Jo. Hawes.

Who is ſafely returned this preſent Moneth of May. *Anno. D.* 1591.



THECA·BOD·ANA·BIB

The valiant and moſt laudable fight performed on the Sea, by the *Centurion* of London.

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IN the moneth of *November* laſt paſt, there were ſundry Shyps appertayning to ſeuerall Marchants of London, which were rigde and fraught forth with marchandize, ſome for Spaine, and ſome for ſundry other places of traffique, who together hauing wind and wether, which oft-time fell out very vncertaine, arriued ſafely in ſhort ſpace, at ſuch places as they deſired, among whom was the Centurion of London, a very tall Shyppe of burden, yet but weakely manned, as appeareth by this Hiſtorie enſuing; wherein God ſhewed a moſt wonderfull accident of his mercifull loue and fauour towards them, giuing them the victory, and deliuering them from the hands of their Enemies, at ſuch time as it was thought vnpoſſible for them to eſcape.

Thys aforeſaid Shyp called the Centurion, ſafely arriued at Marſeelis, where after they had deliuered their goods, they ſtaied about the ſpace of fiue weekes, and better, and then toke in lading, intending to returne to England.

Now when the Centurion was ready to come away frõ Marſeelis, there were ſundry other ſhyps of ſmaller burden, entreated the Maiſter thereof, whoſe name is Robert Brad-

ſhawe, dwelling at the Lime-houſe, to ſtay a day or two for them, vntill they were in a readines to depart with them, thereby perſwading them, that it would be farre better for them to ſtay and goe together in reſpect of their aſſiſtance, then to depart of themſelues without company, and ſo happily for want of ayde fall into the hands of their Enemies in the Spaniſh Gallies. Vpon which reaſonable perſwaſion, notwithſtanding that thys Ship was of ſuch ſufficiencie as they might hazard her in the danger of the Sea, yet they ſtayed for thoſe little Ships according to their requeſt, who together did put to Sea from Marſeelis, and vowed in generall not to flie one from another, if ſo they ſhould happen to meete with any Spaniſh Gallies, beeing reſolute rather to fight it out, then once to be taken by the Spaniards to endure their accuſtomed crueltie.

Theſe ſmall Shippes accompanied with the Centurion, ſayling along the Coſte of Spaine, was vpon Eſter day laſt in the ſtraights of Iebualtare ſuddainly becalmed, where immediatly they ſawe ſundry Gallies make towards them, in very valiant and couragious ſorte: the chiefe Leaders and Souldiours in thoſe Gallies, bravely apparrelled in ſilke Coates, with ſiluer whiſtles about their necks, and great plumes of Feathers in their Hats, who with their Calliuers, ſhotte at the Centurion ſo faſt as they might; ſo that by tenne of the clock and ſomewhat before, they had boorded the Centurion, who before their comming, had prepared for them, and intended to giue them ſo ſower a welcom as they might. And thereupon hauing prepared their cloſe fights, & al things in a readines, they called vpon God, on whō onely they truſted: and hauing made their prayers, and cheered vp one another to fight ſo long as life endured, they began to diſcharge their great Ordinaunce vpon the Gallies, but the little Shyps durſt not come forward, but lay aloofe, while fiue Gallies had boorded them, yea and with their grapling yrons made their Gallies faſt to the ſaid Shippe called the Centurion.

The Gallies were grapled to the Centurion in thys manner, two lay on one side, and two on another, and the Admirall lay full in the sterne, which galled & battered the Centurion so sore, that her maine Mast was greatly weakened, her sayles filled with many holes, and the Misen and sterne made almost vnserviceable.

During which time there was a sore and deadly fight on both sides, in which, the Trumpet of the Centurion, sownded forth the deadly points of war, & encouraged thē to fight manfully against their aduersaries: on the contrary part, there was no warlike Musicke in the Spanish Gallies, but onely their whystles of siluer, which they sounded for ioy to they? owne contentment: in which fight many a Spaniard was turned into the sea, and they in multitudes came crauling and hung vpon the side of the shippe, intending to haue entred into the same, but such was the courage of the Englishmen, that so fast as the Spaniards did come to enter, they gaue them such entertainment, that some of them were glads to tumble aliue into the sea, beeing remedilesse for euer to gette vp aliue. In the Centurion there was in all, of men and boyes, forty and eyght, who together fought most valiantly, and so galled the enemy, that many a brane and lusty Spaniard lost his life in that place.

The Centurian was fyred fyue seuerall times, with wilde fyre and other prouision, which the Spaniards threw in for that purpose: yet God be thanked, by the great and dilligent fore-sight of the Master it did no harme at all.

In euery of the Gallies there was about fiue or sixe hundereth Souldiours: who together with the shotte, spoyled, rent, and battered the Centurion very sore: shotte through her maine Mast, and slew foure of the men in the sayde shippe, the one of them beeing the Masters mate.

Ten other persons were hurt, by meanes of splinters which the Spaniards shotte: yea, in the ende when their prouision was almost spent, they were constrayned to shoote at them hammers, and the chaines from they? slaues,

and yet God be thanked, they receiued no more domage: but by spoyling and ouerwearying of the Spaniards, the Englishmen constrayned them to vngrapple themselues, and gette them going, and sure if there had beene any other fresh shyp or succour to haue receiued and assisted the Centurion, they had slayne, suncke, or taken all those Gallies and theyr Souldiours.

The Dolphin lay a lofe of and durst not come neere, while the other two small shyppes fledde away, so that one of the Gallyes went from the Centurion and sette vpon the Dolphin, which shyppe immediatly was set on fire with theyr owne powder, wherby both men and shyppe perished: but whether it was with theyr good wills or no, that was not knowne vnto the Centurion, but sure if it had come forward, and beene an ayde vnto the Centurion, it is to be supposed that it hadde not perished.

Fiue houres and a halfe this fight continued, in which time both were glad to depart onely to breath themselues, but when the Spaniards were gonne, they neuer durst returne to fight: yet the nexte day sixe other Gallies came and looked at them, but durst not at any hand meddle with them. Thus God deliuered them from the hands of their enemies, and gaue them the victory: for which they hartily prayed God, and are now safely arriued in London.

FINIS.

Present at this fight, Maister *Iohn Hawes* Marchant, and sundry other of good account.